



City of Billings
Public Works Department
406-657-8260
P.O. Box 1178
4848 Midland Road
Billings, Montana 59103
FAX: 406-247-8626

February 16, 2009

Senate Natural Resources Committee
Montana Legislature
Helena, Montana

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

EXHIBIT NO. 22

DATE Feb 16, 2009

BILL NO. SB 451

Re: City of Billings Support for SB 451

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The City of Billings strongly supports SB 451, "Repeal the Megalandfill Siting Laws," for the reasons listed below and urges the passage of this bill as it stands.

1. The Megalandfill Siting Act (the Act) was passed in the early 90's before stringent Federal and State environmental regulations were promulgated for solid waste landfills. The Act duplicates, in many ways, what is already required under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
2. The Act was passed when there were more than 130 active landfills in the state of Montana. Today there are only 27. The Billings Regional Landfill accepts waste from Big Horn, Musselshell, Carbon, Treasure and Stillwater counties in addition to Yellowstone County as these counties no longer operate an active landfill. Consequently, landfills still in operation are taking in greater amounts of waste by virtue of landfill attrition. The Act is no longer relevant.
3. The Act discourages and penalizes large landfills by requiring them to go through an onerous permitting process involving substantial time and fee increases. The Billings Regional Landfill, as well as landfills in Missoula, Great Falls and Kalispell, are very near the tonnage limit that will require permitting under the Act. Combined, these landfills take in over two-thirds of the state's waste.
4. The Act discourages the operation of large landfills while the recently (2006) modified Montana Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan encourages the development of regionalized, well-maintained landfills.
5. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality Planning and Permitting Division concurs that the Act no longer pertains to today's waste management practices.

Please vote YES on SB 451.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barb Butler".

Barbara A. Butler
Environmental Compliance Coordinator
Billings Solid Waste Division



Blank Page...